

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Ferritic steel alloy comprising the following composition (in % by weight):

less than 1 % of Ni,

15–25 % of Cr,

4.5-12 % of Al,

about 2-4 % of Mo,

about 0.8-1.2 % of Nb,

0-0.5 % of Ti,

0-0.5 % of Y, Sc, Zr and/or Hf,

0-0.2 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM),

0-0.2 % of C,

[[0]] about 0.03-0.2 % of N,

with the balance iron and normally occurring impurities,

wherein Mo is partly replaced by W.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein Mo is entirely replaced by W.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein it contains one or more rare earth metals (REM).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein it contains at least 0.1 % in total of Ti, Zr and/or Hf.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Method of producing a ferritic steel alloy comprising:

cold rolling a substrate alloy ~~to a desired thickness~~, the substrate alloy having the following composition (in % by weight):

less than 1 % of Ni,

15– 25 % of Cr,

0–5 % of Al,

about 2-5 % of Mo,

about 0.8-2 % of Nb,

0-0.5 % of Ti,

0-0.5 % of Y, Sc, Zr and/or Hf,

0-0.2 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM),

0-0.2 % of C,

[[0]] about 0.03-0.2 % of N,

with the balance iron and normally occurring impurities;

coating the substrate alloy with Al or an alloy of Al; and
annealing the coated substrate alloy to form the alloy of claim 1,
wherein a total quantity of Al in the coated substrate alloy corresponds to 5.5 to 6 %.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): Product in the form of wire, strip, foil and/or tube for use in high-temperature applications wherein it is produced from a ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The product of claim 6, wherein the product is a supporting material in catalytic converter applications.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The product of claim 6, wherein the high-temperature application is a heating or furnace application.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein the one or more rare earth metals (REM) is Ce or La.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 5, wherein the one or more rare earth metals (REM) is Ce or La.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 5, wherein Al in the substrate alloy is 2-4 %.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein Mo is about 2 %.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein Nb is about 0.8 %.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein Al is 5.5-6 %.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein the alloy has a concentration gradient of Al ~~[[where]]~~ wherein the content of Al is higher at a surface ~~that in a center or~~ than at the center of the alloy.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 15, wherein a content of Al at a distance of at most 5 microns from the surface is more than 6.0 %.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1, Nb is about 0.8 to 1.0 %.